

Proverbs 8:1-36

~ My Son...Wisdom Cries Out ~

Introduction

Well, someone once said that:

There there is a **pervasive problem** in the world today!

There is a **great confusion** abroad!

The **confusion** is that:

People think they can live **the good life** without having God!

Imagine for a moment **the secularist** – h's **living it up** on his multi-million-dollar yacht on a Sunday morning – probably on his third marriage – **sippin back beers** and **watching the game** from last night...while his private chef cooks him his **favourite 3 course** breakfast!

And you know he's the **kind of guy** who **doesn't really believe** that there's a heaven above or a God who's entered into the earth below!!

In fact he's quite happy living in his fanatical atheistic delusion!

And as he reaches down for another beer from his **over-priced esky** – he looks at you with a **twinkle in his eye** and he says:

Life's pretty good without God!

I'm living the good life!

Lying

But see when he **says that** – he's actually doing a little thing – it's a complex theological activity that's a little difficult to pronounce!

It's called:

Lying!

He's lying to you!

He's trying to pull **the wool** over your eyes!

He is manifestly **NOT doing well** without God!

The truth is:

- His **first 2 wives** hound him for money!
- He's **up to his neck** in mortgage repayments!
- His **kids** want nothing to do with him!
- He has **no friends** or family around!
- And the repo man's coming to take his boat!

On top of that – he's probably:

A lazy/ lustful/ arrogant man – who's **sexual past** has caught up with him – he can hardly sleep at night – he's got no purpose in life – and he's miserable **all the time!**

All Vain

But see even if that **wasn't** true – even if he **did think** he was **doing okay** – and even if he did have **all the money** in the world – Scripture says that :

He **still** would **NOT be okay** – because you **can't live** the good life **without God!**

And **he were honest** – he would probably say with Solomon in Ecclesiastes that:

All of it is vanity and none of it brings him lasting joy!

Scripture says that:

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of the good life!

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom!

And the fear of the LORD is **the foundation** for wisdom!

Outline

And so here in our passage Solomon **once again** sells to us the **beauty** & the **blessings** of wisdom!

And Solomon shows us that **apart from** the wisdom of God found in Jesus Christ – apart from the wisdom of God found in creation – then the world is built on:

Playdough foundations

Foundations that will **NOT** last!

That will **NOT** remain!

But God in His goodness **would do better** than **playdough foundations** and so He gave to us

Proverbs chapter 8!

Proverbs 8

So please turn in your bibles to Proverbs 8 – this morning **we're gonna see** that obtaining wisdom is an **essential quality** for living the good life!

Main Point

If you want to live the good life – then you have to embrace the God life!

And what is the God-life in the book of Proverbs – well it's the life that:

Embraces Wisdom's call [1-11]

Enjoys Wisdom's blessings [12-21]

Acknowledges Wisdom's credentials [22-31]

Acts on Wisdom's counsel [32-36]

Opening Gambit

Now you may have notice that Proverbs chapter 8 **draws a sharp distinction** between the lady of the night in Proverbs 7 – and the lady of wisdom here in Proverbs 8!

In fact these 2 chapters are **intentionally placed** beside one another for comparison!

Solomon is drawing a sharp distinction to **get his sons** to **look away from** the seductress and on to
Lady Wisdom!

Because unlike the **lady of the night** – here we find a completely different kind of woman!

She is NOT hiding in the dark!

She is NOT scheming with evil!

She is NOT seducing men to perversion!

But rather her beauty – her quality – her value is **evident** and **known to all men**!

Verse 2:

She goes to the crossroads – and the highroads – the low roads – and the no roads of this world!

From the **highest possible** place where **kings and rulers** reign – to the **lowest possible streets**
where **business deals** takes place!

No one is exempt from her **call**!

No one is **outside of** her appeal!

She has (verse 2):

***Taken her stand** by the way!*

Taken her stand is a word that means to **stay put**/ to **remain** steadfast/fixed/ immovable and secure!

The idea is that:

She's **NOT** going anywhere!

She's **NOT** shifting her feet!

She's **NOT** scheming with evil!

She's a lady in which you can fix your entire life upon!

She **doesn't flake**!

She doesn't bail!

She's completely **unlike** the adulterous woman who forsakes the companion of her youth – this woman **takes her stand!**

Shout

And so it's there at the **entrance of** the city (verse 3) that she **calls out** to all men (verse 4) – the ESV says:

To you, O men, I call, and my cry is to the children of man!

So Her call is **NOT restricted** to the **noble** or the **rich** – the **religious** – & **educated** people – but to:

All people – at all places – at all times – anyone within the sound of her voice can **take her** and live!

All People

And this should be **overly encouraging** to all of us here this morning because it means that even if you **didn't have** the godliest of parents **teaching you wisdom** – or the **trendiest** of lives – or even if you were **NOT educated** at the prestigious institution of:

The University of Queensland!

OR

QUT – which apparently is a university for the real world!

It **doesn't really matter** because everyone here is invited!

Everyone here is being called!

Both the simple & the fool – the wicked & weak (verse 5) all are **beckoned to come** and to dwell in her voice!

Objective Truth

And the message of her cry is powerfully & unashamedly clear – she is a woman who speaks the truth – the whole truth – and nothing but the truth –verse 6:

*Listen, for I speak of noble things, and what my lips say is right. ⁷ For my mouth tells **the truth**, and wickedness is **detestable** to my lips...*

How different this is to the **pluralistic message** of **society today** – we hear things like:

To each their own!

or:

You just need to be true to yourself!

or:

Just follow your own heart and do what seems right to you!

But then one day these same men **come along** and stick a screwdriver in a light socket – and they discover that:

Truth **bites back!**

That truth is **objective!**

And that wisdom **does NOT care** for your **feelings** or **opinions** – verse 6:

She speaks the truth!

Truth

And it **doesn't really matter** whether **you believe her words** are true:

They're true **regardless of** your feelings!

It's true regardless of **how you feel!**

Reality **does NOT care** for your **weak** or **wild** views of subjective relativism!

You can believe in your **little heart of hearts** that gravity **doesn't exist** – and I'm still gonna tell you to:

*Go to the top of the story bridge – jump headfirst **onto a boat** – and see what happens!*

You can believe in your little heart **that all love is love** – and doesn't matter what age or what gender the person is as long as they're in love!

And **I'm gonna say** to you:

*Well then **water is water** – there's the urinal – go have a drink!*

Or does truth matter?!?!

Does context make a difference?!?!

You see Wisdom says that:

There is a body of **knowledge** out there in the world called ***truth!***

And truth **doesn't just describe** what **reality is** – but it **defines how reality works!**

It tells you what is **really real** – what is **really true** – what Francis Schaeffer referred to as:

True truth

It is truth that goes **all the way down** to the soil!

To the roots of **the ground!**

It is Truth that is **heavy!**

Truth that is **granite!**

Truth that is **stone!**

Truth that you can **build your life** upon!

Righteous

But notice that it's **NOT some** cold/ dark/ or hard/detached truth (like gravity makes you go splat – or steel knives produce blood) —I mean **those are true facts** but they're **cold facts!**

They're dark facts!

That's the truth you see of a lion eating its prey on a documentary!

It's true – but it's kind of lifeless!

It's cold – it's dark!

Righteous Truth

But the truth given in Proverbs 8 is a living truth/ it's a breathing truth/ it's an appealing kind of truth!

It's truth that is defined (verse 8) by:

Righteousness

All the words from my mouth are righteous...

That is a word that speaks of:

God's nature – His character – His purity – and perfection!

And so the idea here is that:

Lady Wisdom is coming before us to offer a worldview!

It's a worldview!

It's the answer to what is fundamentally wrong with the world according to Scripture!

What is fundamentally wrong with creation!

What is fundamentally wrong with humanity!

Fundamentally wrong with the human heart!

It's a worldview that makes sense of the dark/the wicked/ and the moral decay of evil that we face –
because:

We have a **Basis/a North star** [HOLD UP BIBLE] to look toward!

Clear

And the reason she can do that – the reason she can provide **truth with a moral spine** is because – verse 9 says:

Her words are **clear** – her words are **sharp** – her words are:

Right to those who discover knowledge...

To those who are wise – her words are life!

And **when she speaks**:

Lady wisdom does **NOT** mince her words – she does **NOT** mix her words – she does **NOT** speak in vague generalities!

But her words are clear – her words are true – and her words are life-giving!

John MacArthur

This week I was reflecting (like Craig) on the death of Dr. John MacArthur who past away on **Monday the 14th of July** – and I was reflecting in particular of what a bulwark of **faith** he truly was!

And **for me** probably the most **powerful moment** of Dr. MacArthur's ministry was a moment he had on Larry King Live **many years ago**!

And MacArthur was sitting there at this desk – on **this show** – in front of millions of people – on national television – with a panel of men who were unable to definitively say what happens after we die!

I mean they gave these **weak/wimpy/ flaky** answers – but it was clear that Dr. MacArthur was the only man who truly possessed the wisdom of God in the clarity of truth!

And so Larry King says:

Dr. Macarthur what happens when you die?

And with his sharp laser focused look – and without **any hesitation** – MacArthur looks at Larry and says:

*When you die you go to one of two places according to the bible – you either go **out of** the presence of God forever or you go **into** the presence of God forever...depending on your relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ which according to the bible is:*

The only way to enter heaven...

He says:

[Both] Christian theology and the Scripture affirm that it's only through faith in Jesus Christ!

End quote!

The man literally declared the truth of God on national television – unflinchingly – unrelenting – unashamedly:

TRUTH!

And it's that kind of **clarity** – that kind of **authority** – and **veracity** that Solomon says wisdom has when **she speaks!**

More Precious

And maybe that's part of the reason why she's **so valuable** – verse 10:

Accept my instruction instead of silver, and knowledge rather than pure gold. ¹¹ For wisdom is better than jewels, and nothing desirable can equal it...

Verse 19:

My fruit is better than solid gold, and my harvest than pure silver. ²⁰ I walk in the ways of righteousness, along the paths of justice, ²¹ giving wealth as an inheritance to those who love me, and filling their treasuries...

I mean we must have read those words over a **dozen times** already in the book of Proverbs:

Wisdom is better than gold!

Wisdom is better than silver!

Wisdom is better than money!

Wisdom is better than riches!

And yet how many times have we **actually heard** that statement – **and believed it** in the face of sin?!?!?

How many times have you **been tempted** this week – and then **turned yourself** to God's word and said:

Wisdom is better than money – wisdom is better than gold!

How many of you **can do that** in the face of sexual sin?

Or perversion of truth?

How many times have you actually thought to yourself that the value of wisdom **is so much better** than the value of sin?!?!?

Miserable

Because Solomon says at the end of the day:

You can have all of the **riches** – you can have all of the **money** – all of the **wealth** – all of the **fame** – all the **fortune** – all of the **girls** – and all the **glitz** – and all the **glamour**:

And you still will be **miserable** in your sin!

Because our hearts were made for Jesus Christ!

Our hearts were made to worship Christ!

And **as long as** you still **have NOT come** to the only source of eternal life by faith in Him – then:

You will always remain miserable – woeful – and the fool of the book of Proverbs you will **always be!**

And so wisdom is selling to us the **value** of her **beauty** by once again telling us that her call goes out **to all men!**

Point 2

Second – notice that the good life is the life that:

Enjoys Wisdom's blessings

Or we could say:

When it comes to the good life – Wisdom provides you with everything you ever need!

She's generous in her gifts!

She's abundant in her blessings!

Because she **isn't flying solo!**

Notice verse 12 says:

I, wisdom, share a home with shrewdness and have knowledge and discretion...

One pastor says:

*Any young man pursuing a woman should always take note of the words that are on her lips. Does she speak words of wisdom? Does she speak words of grace? Does she speak words of kindness? Words that edify, build, & store up? Well likewise a young man **must also take note** of the kind of company that she keeps!*

The kind of friendship she keeps around!

Because verse 12 says that wisdom keeps:

Shrewdness – knowledge and – discretion!

Shrewdness

Now shrewdness here is the ability to be *clever* or *crafty* in everyday life

Think of Jesus in Matthew 10:

To be wise as serpents and as innocent as doves!

It's a similar kind of concept here!

It's being **used positively** to refer to a **sharpness of mind** or a **cleverness of judgment** where:

You have so **much forward-thinking** – that you can **see the danger ahead** and you're **still able** to make wise & moral decisions!

So an example of that would be:

Joseph in Potiphar's **house!**

He saw the **writing on the wall** – he saw the deranged/ deluded & sexually perverted woman that **Potiphar's wife was** – and he ran **as fast as he could** away from the danger!

Joseph literally had wisdom/discretion/ knowledge & prudence dwelling at his side!

That's the **kind of generous gifting** that wisdom is giving in verse 12!

She wants to make you wise in holiness!

Fear of God

This why verse 13 goes on to say that:

The fear of the LORD is the hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate...

If you are wise in the Scriptures – then you are wise in holiness!

It's your knowledge of the Scriptures that determine how holy you will become!

And we've already seen in Proverbs 1:7 that:

The fear of the LORD is a deep/abiding/ and trembling reverence for God!

And so **here in Proverbs 8** we see that all who have this fear of the LORD – likewise:

Live in a way **that is consistent** with the nature of His character!

All those who fear the LORD:

Hate the things that **God hates!**

Strength

But notice that this **hatred of evil** – **this turning away** from perverted speech **doesn't just happen** in your **own strength**/ or **your own wisdom** – but in the wisdom and the strength that **God provides** – verse 14:

I possess good advice and sound wisdom; and I have understanding and strength [literally heroic strength in the Hebrew]. It is by me that kings reign and rulers enact just law; ¹⁶ by me, princes lead, as do nobles and all righteous judges. ¹⁷ I love those who love me, and those who search for me find me.

You see every Christian has **some responsibility** to rule well in their lives!

In fact we are **all called** in some kind of way **to rule** in this world:

- Husbands are called to rule their wives & their home!
- Parents are to rule over their children!
- Christians should be leading well in the workplace!
- Pastors are called to be ruling the churches!

And **every single Christian** is commanded to **rule over** their passions...to mortify the **deeds of the flesh!**

And so every Christian **in some degree** has **some kind of** duty & responsibility to **rule well!**
And yet how hard it is to govern **justly** and **righteously** according to the fear of the LORD when you **don't keep** wisdom close!

Someone once said:

*When you're young and foolish you assume that you're just gonna **work it all out** when the time comes!*

And yet **when the time comes** how often do you sit there and think:

What in the world am I going to do?!?!

How in the world am I going to make a wise biblical decision?!?!

And this is where lady wisdom comes along and says:

Imagine a life where you're able to see the situation through the lens of Scripture and know with confidence what the **right decision is!**

See that's what verse 14 is saying:

If you seek me more than you seek choice gold & fine silver – then I will be to you (verse 14):

Sound wisdom & Heroic strength!

Wisdom will come and she will give to us **unparalleled resource** to **think** and to **act** according to the fear of God!

Riches & Honour

And that's why verse 18 says that when you act according to the fear of God – **it will produce in you:**

Riches and honour, and lasting wealth!

Verse 21:

Giving wealth as an inheritance to those who love me, and filling their treasuries up!

Now **don't go** all prosperity gospel here think:

If I just follow God – if I just put Him first – then I'm gonna get money, & wealth, power, authority, and blessing!

That's **NOT** what these verses are saying!

These verses are talking about an **eternal inheritance**/ an **enriching life** that is (verse 19):

Better than silver – and **better** than gold!

Because it's the **kind of life** that Proverbs predicts will lead to an **eternal inheritance**/ an **eternal blessing** that is based on – verse 20:

*The **righteousness** of God!*

You will walk in the ways of righteousness!

Verse 20:

*The **justice** of God!*

Or walking in the paths of justice!

John Gill in his commentary says:

Christ fills our understanding with knowledge, our souls with grace, our minds with peace, and our hearts with gladness...

Those are the **kind of riches** that wisdom is offering here in these verses:

A life filled by the **holiness of God!**

And a life that is better than silver & gold!

Point 3

Third – notice that the **good life** is the life that:

Acknowledges Wisdom's credentials

Or Wisdom's nature!

And this is the part that **gets really rich** – notice verse 22:

The LORD acquired me at the beginning of His creation, before His works of long ago. ²³ I was formed before ancient times, from the beginning, before the earth began. ²⁴ I was born when there were no watery depths and no springs filled with water. ²⁵ Before the mountains were established, prior to the hills, I was given birth— ²⁶ before He made the land, the fields, or the first soil on earth. ²⁷ I was there when He established the heavens, when He laid out the horizon on the surface of the ocean, ²⁸ when He placed the skies above, when the fountains of the ocean gushed out, ²⁹ when He set a limit for the sea so that the waters would not violate His command, when He laid out the foundations of the earth. ³⁰ I was a skilled

craftsman beside Him. I was His delight every day, always rejoicing before Him. ³¹ I was rejoicing in His inhabited world, delighting in the children of Adam...

Wisdom's Credentials

So this is a description of **Wisdom's credentials!**

Wisdom's role in creation!

These are her **qualities** – and her **qualifications** for being able to give sound advice & sound wisdom!

Everything we've been learning in the book of Proverbs when it comes to the **fear of the LORD** – the **turning from evil** – **NOT being the sluggard** – avoiding **sin** – avoiding **adultery** – honouring your **parents**:

All of it comes from Wisdom's credentials!

Her authority to tell us how to live!

The idea is that:

If God made the world then it **only makes sense** that He made the world **His way** and according to **His wisdom!**

And therefore when you & I **do NOT conform** to the pattern of His way & His wisdom:

Then you & I are **NOT going to live** the good & godly life!

Eternal

And this is what Solomon is saying here when speaking of the **nature** of wisdom:

Wisdom is **eternal!**

Wisdom has **been around** for a very long time!

She was (**verse 22**) around **before God created** the world!

She was (**verse 27**) **with God** in creation of the world!

Verse 30 – She was **beside God** at the creation of the world!

And **verse 31** – she was **delighting with God** in the creation of the world!

The point is that:

Wisdom had a **front row seat** to see what **no scientist** has ever seen!

No geologist can ever record!

What **no historian** could ever point to!

And **no physicist** could ever replicate!

She's eternal – and she's unescapable!

Because she's **inbuilt into** the very fabric of creation!

And so:

How in the world are you **ever going to live** in this world **without her!**

That's the point!

You **cannot live** in God's **wisely designed world** and operate in a way that is contrary to the **principles** of wisdom:

That's how you produce death – that's how you produce sin!

Jesus

And so **part of me** wants to say that the wisdom of Proverbs **being spoken of here** is **in a lot of ways** speaking of:

A pre-incarnate Christ!

That this is Jesus **before taking on** human flesh – speaking at the LOGOS of God!

And in fact, that's how many **old commentators** have interpreted these verses:

Guys like Tertullian – Irenaeus – Justin Martyr – Athanasius!

They **all affirmed** that:

*The Wisdom of God in Proverbs 8 is **with** God – **in** God – and **beside** God – and therefore shares in the properties of God nature!*

And if you know John chapter 1 – that's exactly how **John speaks of Jesus**:

*In the beginning was the word and the word was **with** God and the word **was** God. And all things were created **through** Him, and apart from Him not **anything made** that was made...*

And so maybe this is talking about a pre-incarnate Christ!

Personified

Or maybe it's a way to speak of:

Wisdom personified!

To speak of wisdom in a way that has **qualities** and **attributes** of a **real person** because that's how Hebrew poetry works!

So think of the time when God said to Cain in Genesis 4:

The voice of your brother's blood is crying out from the ground!

Now was his blood **literally crying out** from the ground? – NO it's a way to speak about **the guilt** and **the shame** of Abel's murder!

Or think of Paul in Romans 8 where he says that:

All creation groans in the labours of a new redemption!

Now again creation is **NOT literally** groaning – but it's a way to speak of the **longing** for a new creation!

God's Mind

And so too here in Proverbs 8 – if wisdom **could talk** – if she had a mind – if she **was personified** as **a person**:

These are the kinds of things she would probably say!

And because the wisdom that is **spoken of** in the **book of Proverbs** is **so closely aligned** with the **mind** & the **thinking** of God Himself – it's entirely appropriate for Solomon to give to wisdom **qualities & attributes** that are aligned with the divine nature of God!

NOT because she is God but because:

Wisdom is a reflection of the **mind** – and the **thinking** – and the **character** of God!

Arianism

And so we **have to be careful** when assigning **too much weight** to a passage like Proverbs 8 when speaking of Jesus – because people have taken **these verses** and used them to create:

Dangerous heresies!

In fact that's how **Arius** (an early church heretic in 325 A.D.) understood these verses!

He **took them** and **used them** to deny the deity of Christ and tried to say that:

Jesus was a created being – **NOT equal** to God the Father!

Because **verse 22** says:

The LORD acquired me at the beginning of creation... ²³ and (verse 23) I was formed before ancient times...

And so Arius **took that** and said:

See Jesus was formed – Jesus was created – and therefore He is **NOT** eternal – He is **NOT** co-equal with God the Father!

And so many old commentators like Tertullian – & Justin Martyr – & Athanasius **all came along** and said:

No no no... That word there is **NOT** talking about creating – but begetting!

Jesus is the **only begotten** of the Father – the **monogenes** of the Father – He proceeds from the father – but that in **NO WAY** means – that:

He is created by the Father!

And because according to 1st Corinthians 1 and about 40 other passages:

Jesus Christ is the wisdom of God – but that doesn't mean that Wisdom in Proverbs 8 is Christ!

The Point

And so the **point of these verses** is **NOT** to get caught up in an ancient **Christological heresy** about the **nature & deity** of who Jesus is – the point is to show us:

How the **principles of Wisdom** have **always operated** in the world that God created!

Because she was there when He laid the foundation!

And if wisdom **took part** in watching the world **create** and **take place** – then surely she has the **right & authority** from God Himself to **counsel us** in:

How **we must live** according to **her wisdom!**

Point 4

And in fact that's **exactly why** Solomon now turns in this **final section** to speak of:

Wisdom's glorious counsel

Verse 32 Solomon says:

And now, sons, listen to me

So that is a command of holy Scripture!

And that's actually that word *Shema* in Hebrew – we've spoken about that word many times before – it's a word that means to **NOT only listen** to instruction/ to hear something **audibly** – but it means to listen with:

The intention of conforming to obedience

It means to listen & to obey!

To hear & to conform!

To listen and to act!

And what are these sons supposed to act upon – verse 33:

Listen to instruction and be wise!

Verse 34:

³⁴ Anyone who listens to me is happy, watching at my doors every day, waiting by the posts of my doorway. ³⁵ For the one who finds me finds life and obtains favour from the LORD, ³⁶ but the one who misses me, harms himself; all who hate me love death...

Cancer

You see this is what happens when we try to live life **outside of** a world **wisely created** by God – wisely **designed by** God – when we live a life that is **contrary to** the design & purposes of God for us:

We produce death!

We **only produce** death!

Cancer

By way of example – it would be like having a cell inside of your body...and one day that cell **decided to NOT operate** according to the **good design & purpose** of the body:

Do you know **what we call** a cell that does that?

We call that cancer!

Why – because **when that cell** operates **outside of** the body's design:

It becomes **malignant** – it becomes **malicious**!

It begins to attack the body's cells!

And if that cell is allowed to **remain & to operate** in the body's system:

It produces death!

It produces pain!

Death is the only result of an **untreated** rogue **cancerous** cell!

And so the **only way** to treat cancer in the body is to **remove it** – to **destroy it** – and sometimes to **even poison it!**

Death

And so too when you & I are **allowed to operate** in this world **freely** & **sinfully** and **NOT according** to God's wisely designed system – the bible says that:

We produce death!

We produce pain!

We produce sin & rebellion against our Creator!

Gospel

And **what if God** treated His **rogue/rebellious/cancerous** creation like we treat cancer in the body:

By killing it – and removing it – and destroying it!

Would **He be wrong** in doing that?

Would **He be unjust** for doing that?

I don't think He would!

Because it's His creation!

And because the bible says that **all of humanity/ all of mankind** has deviated from God's good design in creation!

We have all **sinned!**

We have all **rebelled!**

And we have all produced **and are producing** death against God!

And God has every right as the Creator to kill/destroy/ and remove our lives from the creation that
He made!

Good News

But you see the good news of the gospel is that unlike humanity that simply kills off the **rogue/and rebellious/cancerous** cells...

God in His **infinite mercy** and **grace**:

Actually saves us!

He heals us!

And He transforms us through the glorious message of the cross!

And the bible says that God **in His infinite wisdom** can create new life from cancerous cells!

2nd Corinthians 5:17 says:

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation – the old has passed away; and behold, the new has come...

No longer rogue!

No longer rebellious!

No longer producing death!

We have passed from death unto life when we put our full faith & trust in the Person and work of
Jesus Christ!

And friends **that's the hope** that we have in this text!

Application

And so let me finish here today by drawing your attention to **one simple truth** of this text!

You **live in a world** that is governed, guided, directed by a God who made all of it!

And **you serve a God** who cares about all of His creation!

We live in a world where God cares **all the way down** to the the ant!

Which tells us that **His attention** to detail – His attention to the **small** – the **weak** – the **tiny** – the **insignificant** things in life **really matter to Him!**

They really matter to God!

He cares **all the way down** to the insect!

Mankind

And even as you look at the creation of man – and **the probability** of you just even **being here!**

Like the **sheer unlikelihood** of us **even arriving** on planet earth is **in itself** a miracle!

And just get **really crude** for just a moment:

*Scientists will tell you that the average man produces **8 million** forward swimming sperm*

Which means that if you remove all of the **mini sexual acts** that a husband and wife preform in their lives over their marriage – and you just get it **down to one:**

The one where you were conceived!

There are 8 million **other people** who could have been here **instead of** you!

And are you gonna be **ungrateful!**

Are you gonna **moan**!

Are you gonna sit there **and complain** because:

You have work!

Or debt that you need to pay!

Or because your life **hasn't turned out** the way you thought!

Or because you don't have the house you want!

Or the car to drive!

Or because you're **single** – or **divorced**!

Because you're tall/short/fat/skinny/blonde/brunette!

Like what are you gonna complain about:

There are 8 million **other people** who could have been here **instead of** you!

And yet **this is the world** that God decided to **bring you forth** in wisdom!

To delight in your existence!

And when it does come time for **you to die** and to **pass on** into **eternity**!

God's gonna look at you and say:

You had your time!

You had your chance!

You were the lucky lottery winner of the bunch!

And what are you going to do with that?!?!

How are you going to respond?!?!

God was **calling you** each & everyday **through** the voice of wisdom!

His wisdom **in creation!**

His wisdom **in the Scriptures!**

And His wisdom in the Person & Work of Jesus Christ!

And so verse 35 says:

For the one who finds me finds life...but the one who hates wisdom embraces death!

So friends which life are you going to choose?

That's **next week's sermon** by the way – Proverbs 9!

You choose lady wisdom – or lady folly!

The life of sin – chaos – rebellion & death?

Or the life that truly leads to joy?

Because Solomon says:

If you want to live the good life – God life – if you want to live the life that is **truly pleasing** to the soul then find this life **by faith** in Jesus Christ!

If you want to live the good life – then you have to embrace the God life!

And the only way to do that is by:

Embracing Wisdom's call [1-11]

Enjoying Wisdom's blessings [12-21]

Acknowledging Wisdom's credentials [22-31]

Acting on Wisdom's counsel [32-36]

Proverbs 8:1-36

Discussion Questions

[Read Proverbs 8:1-36].

Main Point: *If you want to live the good life – then you have to embrace the God life!*

Q1. In your own words, what is the “*good life*” according to our culture, and how does that differ from what Scripture presents in Proverbs 8? – What are some key differences between Lady Wisdom in Proverbs 8 and the adulterous woman of Proverbs 7? – Verse 4 says wisdom calls out to “*all mankind.*” Why is that important? What does this tell us about who wisdom is for? – Discuss the phrase “*truth bites back.*” – Can you think of real-life examples where rejecting truth led to pain/death?

Q2. [Read Verses 12-21]. – According to verse 12, wisdom lives with “*shrewdness, knowledge, and discretion.*” How do those companions shape what wisdom looks like in everyday life? – **[Read Verse 13].** How does fearing God shape the way you pursue holiness? – What does verse 14 teach us about the strength and power wisdom gives? – How is the wealth described in verses 18–21 different from the prosperity gospel? – Do you truly believe wisdom is “*better than gold*”? – What evidence would you point to in your own life?

Q3. [Read verses 22-31]. What does this section say about the origin and role of wisdom in creation? – How does personifying wisdom help communicate her authority and importance? – How does seeing wisdom as woven into creation help us understand God’s design for living?

Q4. What are the consequences of rejecting wisdom according to verses 35–36? – How does the gospel bring hope to those who have rejected wisdom in the past?